

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 /090 W

-----090324Z 121579 /63

R 081117Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4089

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1189

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, EG, SY, SU, US

SUBJECT: U.S. POLICY TOWARD ERITREA

1. SPECIAL EFFORT APPEARS BE UNDER WAY BY EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN EMBREPS TO DETERMINE USG ATTITUDE ON 'RED SEA SECURITY' AND, SPECIFICALLY, ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE. ON APRIL 5 SYRIAN CHARGE CALLED ON AMBASSADOR (FOR FIRST TIME IN EIGHT MONTHS) PRIMARILY TO ASK ABOUT USG POLICY TOWARD ERITREA. SIMILARLY, EGYPTIAN MILATT HAD INDICATED DESIRE MEET WITH DCM AND TOOK ADVANTAGE IMPROMPTU MEETING AT SOCIAL OCCASION APRIL 6 TO INQUIRE ABOUT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD ERITREA AND EPMG.

2. IN BOTH CONVERSATIONS CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED THAT USG REACTING TOO SLOWLY TO DEVELOPMENTS UNFOLDING WITHIN
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ETHIOPIA. EGYPTIAN MILATT EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SOVIETS WERE CONSOLIDATING THEIR POSITION IN ETHIOPIA AND THAT US WOULD BE FORCED REACT TO THIS FAIT ACOMPLI, AND FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES TO WITHDRAW FROM COUNTRY. HE MANIFEST IMPATIENCE OVER WHAT HE SAW AS SLOW US REACTION TO DEVELOPMENTS WHICH SEEM BE AFFECTING STRATEGIC BALANCE IN NORTH EAST AFRICA/RED SEA REGION. HE WAS CAREFUL, HOWEVER,

TO NOTE THAT GOE DOES NOT RPT NOT YET SUPPORT COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE FOR ERITREA. SYRIAN CHARGE WAS VAGUE AS TO WHY HIS GOVERNMENT INTERESTED IN RED SEA ISSUES BUT SAID HE THOUGHT ERITREA COULD BECOME INDEPENDENT. AMBASSADOR STRESSED OUR INTEREST IN PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AFRICAN ISSUES BY AFRICANS.

3. COMMENT: MANNER IN WHICH BOTH DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE LEAVES LITTLE DOUBT DAMASCUS AND CAIRO HAVE INSTRUCTED DIPLOMATS HERE DEVELOP INFO ABOUT USG POSITIONS RE AREA ISSUES. BREWER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, ET, EG, SY, SU, US
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